THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has restructured the erstwhile self employment programmes including Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) into a single comprehensive self employment programme namely Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with effect from 1.4.1999. The programme is credit linked and also has the provisions of Group Life Insurance as in erstwhile IRDP. The Group Insurance Scheme provides for an insurance cover of Rs. 5,000/- payable on natural death and Rs. 10,000/- on accidental death of Swarozgaris, between 18 to 60 years, availing the facility under the scheme. The insurance cover terminates at the end of five years or on the beneficiary attaining 60 years of age whichever is earlier. No premium is payable by the Swarozgaris.

The claims are settled by the Life Insurance Corporation of India out of a special fund provided by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) The number of claims settled in Gujarat during the last 2 years are as under:—

Year	No. of Claims	Amount(Rs. in lacs)
1998-1999	474	25.54
1999-2000*	358	18.55

*Provisional figures.

Orissa as a Special Category State

5400. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for Orissa having no scope for capital formation and substantial investment opportunities despite having vast forest, mineral, land, water and marine resources;

(b) whether Government would recognise Orissa as a Special Category State due to the damage caused by Super Cyclone;

(c) whether any memorandum in this regard has been received from the Orissa Government or any other organisation; and

(d) if so, whether it has been referred to the Finance Commission and if so, what is the decision of the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Abundant natural resources offer vast scope for capital formation and investment. However, this scope can be availed of fully only if the finances of the State are first put on a sound footing.

(b) to (d) The Mir istry of Finance have not received any memorandum either from the State Government of Orissa or from any other organisation for grant of the status of a Special Category State to Orissa following the Super Cyclone. Grant of such status would depend on a variety of economic and other considerations and not on natural calamities. The final authority competent to recommend grant of such status is the National Development Council.

Projects pending assistance from World Bank and IMF

5401. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects pending for last two years on which the assistance from World Bank/International Monetary Fund has been sought;

(b) whether any assurance as to the release of funds with regard to these projects was received by the Finance Minister during his meeting with World Bank President recently in Washington; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There are 4 projects which were negotiated prior to May 1998 but have not yet been approved by the World Bank Board. These four projects relating to power, roads & renewable energy sector are not seen as supporting basic human needs. IMF does not provide financial assistance for projects.

(b) and (c) Finance Minister met World Bank President Mr. Wolfensohn at Washington on 15.4.2000. Mr. Wolfensohn indicated that in view of the improved climate created by President Clinton's visit to India, Bank would take steps to consider all pending projects expeditiously.

Popularisation of Kisan Credit Card Scheme in Karnataka

5402. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued by various nationalised banks in Karnataka so far;